

# HISTORIC CRIMES and MYSTERIES

WALT  
MASON



INFATUATION OF MARY BLANDY.

MARY BLANDY does not rank with the great artists in crime, but as an illustration of human perversity she remains supreme. The babes and sucklings of her time have become venerable men and women, and all kinds of water have passed under the bridge, but her name still lives in England, and when old lawyers encounter a peculiarly cold-blooded criminal, they are wont to say that he is as bad as Mary Blandy.

Mary lived with her parents at Henley-on-Thames. Her father was a fine, comfortable man, a solicitor who had a seemingly package of pieces of eight salted down to his old age, and to leave to his beloved daughter when he went to sleep with his fathers. Mary was the joy and pride of his life. He thought so much of her that he used to bore his friends describing her noble and charming qualities, and seemed to be under the impression that she ought to have been presented with a gold-headed cane at least once a day. And, really, the old man was not without excuse, for Mary was a most attractive damsel. She was young, well educated, of divers accomplishments, and a pleasant personality. The father was justified in believing that she eventually would marry some excellent citizen, and live happy ever after.

If she didn't do this it was not because of a lack of excellent citizens, or a backwardness on their part. Her suitors fairly tramped down all the flowers in the front yard in their eager-



Mary's Adamantine Conscience Was Touched.

ness to propose to her, and among them were some of the most desirable and promising young men in the neighborhood. She treated them all as good friends, and turned them down, one after another, when they volunteered to escort her to the altar. In view of what followed it is well to remember that Mary Blandy had her chance to pick and choose from all the beautiful young men of the countryside.

In the fullness of time Captain Cranstoun came to Henley on recruiting service. The captain was a caricature of a man. He was small and withered, badly pitted with the small-pox, cross-eyed and possessed of a hideous muddy complexion. He was the ugliest thing seen on the main street of the town in many a day. Imagine, therefore, the consternation of the beautiful young men who had been rejected in one-two-three order, when they learned that Cranstoun was paying his attentions to Mary, and evidently with success. Mary seemed infatuated with her shriveled captain. So the young men held an indignation meeting, and resolved to look up the captain's record, which they did. It was a bad one, and included the fact that he had a wife and children in Scotland.

Proof of this was sent to Mr. Blandy, and he tried to call a halt. He put his foot down, as becomes the head of a house, and announced that the captain would have to cease his visits, and Mary must have nothing further to do with him. The next time the captain called Mary explained the situation to him, and he seemed to think it amusing. His marriage with the woman in Scotland wasn't a legal marriage, he said. It could be declared off at any time. He was a great talker, and could make Mary believe that white was black. She took his word about that Scotch marriage, and refused to

give him up. One of the curious things about this case is that Mary's mother was a champion of the captain from first to last. She called him her dear son, and when she fell sick, after the captain had been forbidden the house by Mr. Blandy, she moaned and wailed for her dear son so greatly that he had to be sent for. So he sat at her bedside for hours together, and when he wasn't there he was pursuing his courtship of the daughter.

Meanwhile Mr. Blandy remained firm and refused to consent to Mary's marriage to the captain, notwithstanding that the latter proved he was a brother of the happy warrior, failed to move him. So Mary and the captain held a caucus and decided that the old man was superfluous, and would have to be removed. They laid their plans carefully. They gave out the information that funeral music had been heard in the house, which was a certain warning that Blandy would die within twelve months. Cranstoun also went around explaining that he was gifted with second sight, and he had seen the old gentleman's ghost. Having thus prepared the neighborhood for fatalities, the captain went to Scotland and sent Mary a package of powder for cleaning silverware, showing how thoughtful he was. Instead of cleaning the silverware, Mary absently began feeding the powder to her father, who certainly wasn't silver-lined. She was quite careless about it. She put the powder in his tea, in his porridge, in his gravy. Through a long winter she seasoned his victuals with arsenic, and the old man's sufferings were indescribable. During that time two servants were nearly killed by drinking poisoned tea Mary had left lying around.

June came, and the father still hung on, and Cranstoun wrote Mary a letter from Scotland, intimating that she was slower than molasses in January, and urging her to double the dose. One day, when Blandy's sufferings had been intolerable, and he lay moaning and writhing upon his bed, Mary's adamant conscience was touched, and she confessed that she had been poisoning him. She fell on her knees at his bedside and begged her father to curse her. "I curse thee not," said the poor old man; "no, I bless thee, and hope God will bless thee, and amend thy life."

Shortly after this he died, and he was in his grave before suspicion was directed toward Mary. Then the servants began to talk, and when suspicion once was aroused, there was no difficulty in securing evidence, for the girl had been perfectly reckless in conducting her operations. She was arrested, tried and convicted, and one fine morning she ascended the scaffold, young and handsome still, and suffered all that the law calls for in such cases. Cranstoun, when he heard of her arrest, fled from Scotland and went to France. Fearing that he would be hunted down there, he moved on to Flanders, where he fell ill and died.

## Overlooked Points in Wager.

A wager is said to have been won by Sir Walter Raleigh, from Queen Elizabeth on the question of how much smoke is contained in a pound of Virginia tobacco. A pound of the weed was weighed, burned and then weighed again, in ashes. The question was held to be satisfactorily settled by determining that the weight of the smoke was exactly that of the tobacco before being burned, minus the residue of ashes. The fact that the ashes had received additional weight by combining with the oxygen of the atmosphere and the further fact that certain gases were evolved in the process of combustion were unthought of by the queen and Sir Walter, the knowledge of such things not having then been revealed.

## Rather Overdid It.

The little daughter of a college professor had been taught to pray for the things which she desired. It was very dry and hot, and everybody was looking anxiously for rain. Suddenly it occurred to the little miss that she could pray for rain, and she acted on her impulse at once. Shortly after, there came a terrific thunder shower. Streets were gullied out, trees were blown down and other damage was done. After the shower, the child's mother found her standing at the window looking out with a rueful face upon the debris, and heard her say in an awestruck voice:

"Oh, Lord, what have I done?"—Everybody's Magazine.

## Too Rich Cream.

"To illustrate the uses of advertisements," says a well-known theatrical manager, "there is one experience I had of which I often think."

"I was driving when I came to a farm where there was a meadow to let. The owner of this farm would have made a good advertisement manager, for the big poster announcing that the meadow was to let was worded as follows:

"This field to let, seventeen acres, for grazing. Persons having old cattle, or cattle with strong appetites, had better be cautious in turning them out to graze here, as my grass is so rich that it would be liable to injure them for the first week or so."

## Justice to Thomas Paine.

Most of Thomas Paine's ideas are so familiar to us of today that it is hard to believe the hullabaloo they raised—international arbitration, anti-slavery, justice to women and mercy to animals. He proposed old age pensions, compulsory public schools, state aid to poor children, endowment of motherhood, public work for the unemployed, and a graduated income tax to pay for these reforms.—Exchange

## ABOUT AUTO RISKS

### FOUR METHODS TO COVER CAR BY INSURANCE.

Expert Explains "Some of the Wrinkles" in the Various Kinds of Protection—Things Brokers Do Not Explain.

"There are four ways to cover an automobile by insurance," says Eugene T. Pelham, an automobile expert, in explaining some of the wrinkles of the various kinds of protection offered by policies.

"The first is against fire and theft and transportation. This policy means that the insurance covers the car anywhere it might be in the United States or Canada in a public or private garage, and the broad coverage of transportation due to the fact that the roads are interspersed with so many ferries to complete one's tour, the occasion has been brought to this office's attention where automobiles have been rushed off the boats to save lives and the great number of other cars and property on the boats.

"I doubt that there is one broker in a thousand who would explain what this clause of transportation means in an automobile insurance policy. They write the policies in the easiest way and you, the assured, do the suffering. "The legal liability coverage policy which indemnifies you against loss due to injury to any one person to the extent of \$5,000, or two or more persons to the extent of \$10,000. How many brokers are there now who will tell you that this is all the insurance that is necessary. They do so because they do not study the records of the tremendous lawsuits and verdicts that are rendered against the assured. Does his broker tell him that for a small additional charge he can get limits for one person of \$10,000, or two or more persons for \$10,000.

"The property damage clause, to indemnify the assured against loss from liability imposed by law upon the assured for damages on account of damage to or destruction of property of any description.

"What the insurance companies call the collision clause, meaning damage to the insured's own car. How many of the assured have had a small collision and have written a letter to their broker and been told that the policy does not cover this small loss.

"They do not tell the assured that for a small additional premium these losses could be covered because they are anxious for the business and they are afraid of losing the line through ignorance or for asking for a little higher premium which is essential to cover full damages."

## SERIOUS PROBLEM IS SOLVED

New Oiling Indicator Shows Driver When Motor Is Receiving Proper Lubrication.

Motor oiling from the beginning of the industry has offered a serious problem to the manufacturers for the reason that something positive and virtually automatic in this connection had to be evolved, some system which would also show the driver while on the road that the motor was receiving the proper lubrication.

Many systems with sight feed on the dash have been offered and answered the purpose well enough until the force feed, splash and other system of lubrication became so perfected that the motorist, relying entirely on the methods of oiling employed, ignored the sight feed and often, forgetting to supply the necessary oil, seriously damaged the motor before realizing that the oil reservoirs were dry.

One of the new models avoids such troubles in a very positive but simple way. A pocket is fitted in the oil line on the inside of which is a float; when the motor is running and the oil pump is working, the oil pocket becomes filled with oil, causing the float to rise and thereby make an electrical connection which illuminates a pilot light on the dash. If the oil pump stops pumping or is not circulating, the float in the oil pocket drops to the bottom, breaking the electrical contact and the pilot light on the dash goes out. If the level of the oil in the oil reservoir is gearing a point where improper lubrication will cause damage to the motor, the float is at a point where the jolting of the machine will cause the float to rapidly rise and fall, thereby making and breaking the electrical contact and causing the pilot light on the dash to flash a warning.

## New Auto Danger.

For years all users of gasoline engines have been advised to filter their fuel through chamolins to remove water and impurities. Recently, however, several mysterious explosions have shown the danger of this process. When a fluid drips through insulating filtering material, a charge of static electricity may be formed, particularly in dry, cold weather. Thus, when filling a tank, the funnel acquires an electric charge of one sign and the gasoline running into the tank carries a charge of the opposite sign when the funnel is insulated from the ground and tank. In time a spark will pass, and, if there is an explosive mixture present, an explosion will result. If fine wire gauze is used for filtering, the danger is greatly reduced. The electricity carried by the funnel may be discharged by touching it to the tank (away from the filling hole) and keeping it in metallic contact with the tank all the time while filling.—August Outing.

## RIM EXTENSIONS ARE HELP

They Prevent Heavy Motortrucks From Becoming Mired in Soft-Dirt Roads.

To prevent heavy motortrucks from becoming mired in soft-dirt roads, or stuck in sand, an Indiana inventor has designed an ingenious type of extension rim for application to the rear wheels. The device, for which patent rights have been granted, consists of two steel rims arranged to be bolted to the opposite sides of a wheel. The outer of these is six inches in width



When Soft Roads Are Encountered the Extension Rims Come Into Use, Doubling the Bearing Surface of the Rear Wheels.

and the inner one four inches. Neither touches the ground until the truck sinks the depth of its tires. Then the extensions come into play, giving each rear wheel ten inches of additional bearing surface and increasing the traction. Thus, on hard roads the steel members form no interference, but are ever ready for an emergency when soft highways are traversed. They can be applied to the wheels of any truck.—Popular Mechanics Magazine.

## HOW TO APPLY WAX POLISH

Some Helpful Suggestions on How to Keep Body of Car Spick and Span.

To apply a nonfluid wax polish, one has to rub it on much the same as in applying a nonfluid cleaner. Every spot of the finish must be touched and an even, thick coating applied. In liquid polishes the same even application should be observed. One of the best methods of applying wax is to wrap a piece of the material in a piece of cheesecloth, drawing the cloth into a bunch which may be held by the fingers without getting them covered with the polish. The rubbing will cause the wax to work through the cheesecloth, imparting an even coating.

The finishing touch should be done with a chamolins and this final polishing is a matter of hard rubbing until the wax is thoroughly worked in and a shiny finish results. The harder the rubbing the better and more lasting the finish. Once applied, the wax finish will last for a month or more and the second and consequent applications do not require the amount of work. A cleaner rubbed over the surface that has previously been waxed takes off the dirt very readily.

The polishing completed, it is now time for retouching the places on the body and fenders where the enamel has been worn off. This retouching should be done after the polishing is completed, because at that time one is sure that all dirt has been removed, and painting or enameling over dirt will not help the appearance of the car. Quick-drying enamel will dry overnight, as will the preparations especially prepared for this retouching. The wax should be removed from the places to be retouched by dabbing them with a piece of rag soaked in gasoline. With a fine, round-pointed brush one can enamel over the smallest scratches. The enamel flows evenly and the mark will not be noticeable. The writer has painted a body complete with this enamel and found that the material flows evenly, even if the brushwork is rather careless.

## MEN'S MOTOR FASHIONS

Motor fashions for men for the 1916-17 winter seasons follow modified military effects, but are made with a comfort first idea, though embracing style.

Soft fabrics in plaids prevail, with garments looser, longer and designed to embrace utility as well as good appearance.

The trench coat is the very latest for motoring on a winter day.

Pockets are made large and capable of carrying everything one needs on a trip.

## Put on Rim Paint.

An application of rim paint may and probably will save the price of a new tire. Winter driving, through wet roads, means rims that are often soaked in water and the resultant rust, when against the tire, will rot the rubber and fabric and end in a rim cut which you cannot account for. The rims should be dressed at the same time the body is finished. If you put it off you will never do it. If you are unable to purchase a good rim paint in your locality cover the rims with paste graphite.

Painting the wheels is up to you. Owners are presenting a cry for individuality in motorcars, and if you must drive your old car why have it like all the rest? One well applied coat of paint on the wood rims and spokes is going to improve the looks of your car and, incidentally, preserve the wood and keep it from cracking.



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## ARE YOUR KIDNEYS WEAK?

Thousands of Men and Women Have Kidney Trouble and Never Suspect It.

Nature warns you when the track of health is not clear. Kidney and bladder troubles cause many annoying symptoms and great inconvenience both day and night.

Unhealthy kidneys may cause lumbago, rheumatism, catarrh of the bladder, pain or dull ache in the back, joints or muscles, at times have headache or indigestion, as time passes you may have a sallow complexion, puffy or dark circles under the eyes, sometimes feel as though you had heart trouble, may have plenty of ambition but no strength, get weak and lose flesh.

If such conditions are permitted to continue, serious results may be expected; Kidney Trouble in its very worst form may steal upon you.

Prevalency of Kidney Disease. Most people do not realize the alarm-

ing increase and remarkable prevalence of kidney disease. While kidney disorders are among the most common diseases that prevail, they are almost the last recognized by patients, who usually content themselves with doctoring the effects, while the original disease may constantly undermine the system.

If you feel that your kidneys are the cause of your sickness or run down condition, try taking Dr. Kilmer's Swamp-Root, the famous kidney, liver and bladder remedy, because as soon as your kidneys improve, they will help the other organs to health.

If you are already convinced that Swamp-Root is what you need, you can purchase the regular fifty-cent and one-dollar size bottles at all drug stores. Don't make any mistake but remember the name, Dr. Kilmer's Swamp-Root, and the address, Binghamton, N. Y., which you will find on every bottle.

**SPECIAL NOTE**—You may obtain a sample size bottle of Swamp-Root by enclosing ten cents to Dr. Kilmer & Co., Binghamton, N. Y. This gives you the opportunity to prove the remarkable merit of this medicine. They will also send you a book of valuable information, containing many of the thousands of grateful letters received from men and women who say they found Swamp-Root to be just the remedy needed in kidney, liver and bladder troubles. The value and success of Swamp-Root are so well known that our readers are advised to send for a sample size bottle. Address Dr. Kilmer & Co., Binghamton, N. Y. When writing be sure and mention this paper.

## The Psychology of It.

"I would rather have a sensitive horse for hunting than any other kind."

"Why a sensitive horse?"

"Because he would be quicker to take offence."

## HEAL YOUR SKIN TROUBLES

With Cuticura, the Quick, Sure and Easy Way. Trial Free

Bathe with Cuticura Soap, dry and apply the Ointment. They stop itching instantly, clear away pimples, blackheads, redness and roughness, remove dandruff and scalp irritation, heal red, rough and sore hands as well as most baby skin troubles. Free sample each by mail with Book. Address postcard, Cuticura, Dept. L, Boston. Sold everywhere.—Adv.

## Fortune's Knocks.

"Birthstones are supposed to control our destiny. What is yours?"

"Judging from my experience in life, it must be a brickbat."

**The Quinine That Does Not Affect The Head** Because of its tonic and laxative effect, Laxative Bromo Quinine can be taken by anyone without causing nervousness or ringing in the head. There is only one "Bromo Quinine."—W. W. GROVES' signature is on each box. 25c.

The majority of us would have to work overtime if we undertook to love our neighbors half as much as they love themselves.

## Single Blessedness.

A schoolmistress asked her class to explain the word "bachelor," and she was amused when a little girl answered: "A bachelor is a very happy man."

"Where did you learn that?" asked the schoolmistress.

"Father told me."

## Looking Forward.

Hawkins—Congratulate me, old chap. My mother-in-law is coming to spend the winter with us.

Baldwin—You seem to be real enthusiastic about it.

Hawkins—You bet your life I am. Why, man, she can cook.

## All She Wanted to Know.

"Did he make his money honestly?"

"Dear me, I didn't think to ask him that."

"No?"

"No. All I was particular about was knowing that he had it."

## Obstinate attacks of Piles are relieved

and the difficult stools which accompany them are softened through the use of Wright's Indian Vegetable Pills. Send for trial box to 372 Pearl St., New York. Adv.

## Very Often.

"The safe carriage of dynamite—"

"Oh, that's an exploded idea."

A business woman should never propose to a man who can't cook or sew on buttons.

## Raise High Priced Wheat on Fertile Canadian Soil



Canada extends to you a hearty invitation to settle on her FREE Homestead lands of 160 acres each or secure some of the low priced lands in Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta. This year wheat is higher but Canadian land just as cheap, so the opportunity is more attractive than ever. Canada wants you to help feed the world by tilling some of her fertile soil—land similar to that which during many years has averaged 20 to 45 bushels of wheat to the acre. Think of the money you can make with wheat around \$2 a bushel and land so easy to get. Wonderful yields also of Oats, Barley and Flax. Mixed farming in Western Canada is as profitable an industry as grain growing.

The Government this year is asking farmers to put increased acreage into grain. Military service is not compulsory in Canada but there is a great demand for farm labor to replace the many young men who have volunteered for service. The climate is healthful and agreeable, railway facilities excellent, good schools and churches convenient. Write for literature as to reduced railway rates to Supt. of Immigration, Ottawa, Can., or to

W. S. NETHERY, Room 82, Interurban Bldg., Columbus, O. Canadian Government Agent